

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5087

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY

PERSONAL FOR SECRETARY SCHLESINGER FROM AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD

1. IN MY JUDGMENT, THE NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY INITIATED BY THE NETHERLANDS WILL PROBABLY MEET THE IMMEDIATE ALLIANCE NEED WITH RESPECT TO THE DUTCH CONCERNS. HOWEVER, IT WILL NOT EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE LARGER PROBLEM WHICH IS OF INTEREST TO YOU AND IT IS NOT THE APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR THAT PURPOSE. TO MEET THE APPARENT U.S. DESIRES AND REQUIREMENTS AND THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE ALLIANCE WE SHOULD REPLACE THE PRESENT STEERING GROUP UNDER DUTCH CHAIRMANSHIP WITH THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP (EWG), WHICH CAN PROVIDE STRONGER LEADERSHIP, SHOULD TACKLE THIS PROBLEM AND PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS IN DECEMBER 1973 FOR DECISION BY ALLIED DEFENSE MINISTERS.

2. I SUGGEST THAT YOU AND OTHER DEFENSE MINISTERS, AT THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL MEETING, CHARGE THE EWG WITH THE TASK OF DIRECTING THIS NEW EFFORT. MEANWHILE, THE EXISTING LAND, SEA, AIR AND LOGISTICS SUB-GROUPS SHOULD CONTINUE THEIR CURRENT WORK AND SUBMIT THEIR REPORTS. AFTER THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL, THE EWG WILL DETERMINE WHICH SUB-GROUPS SHOULD CONTINUE UNDER THEIR DIRECTION AND WHICH NEW SUB-GROUPS IF ANY SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED

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3. THERE ARE CERTAIN ATTITUDES THAT MUST BE OVERCOME IF THE U.S. AND THE ALLIES ARE TO MAKE REAL PROGRESS TOWARD GREATER EFFICIENCY

THROUGH SPECIALIZATION. AMONG THEM ARE THE FOLLOWING:

A. SINCE EUROPE STILL LACKS POLITICAL UNITY, MANY GOVERNMENTS REMAIN HESITANT ABOUT DEPENDING UPON OTHERS. SOME ARE AFRAID THAT ANOTHER ALLY MAY MAKE A UNILATERAL DEFENSE BUDGET CUT IN THE FUTURE THAT WOULD INVALIDATE THEIR OWN PROGRAMS.

B. MOREOVER, THERE ARE STRONG COMMERCIAL PRESURES BEING EXERTED ON INDIVIDUAL ALLIED GOVERNMENTS (INCLUDING OUR OWN) FOR GREATER COMPETITION RATHER THAN GREATER COOPERATION. NATO HAS HAD AN ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THE MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION AS WELL AS A HOST OF ARMAMENTS WORKING GROUPS, BUT THE "NOT INVENTED HERE" SYNDROME HAS PREVENTED REAL SUCCESS.

C. FINALLY, MILITARY COMMANDERS TRADITIONALLY AND UNDERSTAND-ABLY WANT TO BE AS SELF-SUFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE. THEY PREFER TO HAVE NECESSARY RESOURCES UNDER THEIR OWN CONTROL TO CARRY OUT THEIR ASSIGNED MISSIONS.

4. THESE DIFFICULTIES ARE REAL BUT NOT INSUPERABLE. OUR GOAL SHOULD BE STEADY, STEP-BY-STEP PROGRESS RATHER THAN TOTAL "SOLUTIONS" THAT ARE OFTEN MORE RHETORICAL THAN REAL. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MUST LEAD THE WAY. THE U.S. SHOULD PREPARE FAIR TRADE-OFFS, INCLUDING A CLEAR INDICATION OF SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS THAT THE U.S. IS WILLING TO TAKE OVER IN EXCHANGE FOR ACCEPTABLE COMPENSATORY MEASURES BY THE EUROPEAN ALLIES. THE U . S. SHOULD ALSO DEVELOP AND PROPOSE A PROGRAM TIMETABLE WITH MILESTONES, SO THAT WE AND OUR ALLIES WILL BE ABLE TO MEASURE PROGRESS TOWARD SPECIALIZATION GOALS AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

5. IF YOU APPROVE THIS APPROACH, WE SHOULD START WORKING TO LAUNCH A MORE SUBSTANTIAL SPECIALIZATION STUDY IN DECEMBER. THE NPG MINISTERIAL IN NOVEMBER OFFERS THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY
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TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS AT A SENIOR LEVEL WITH KEY ALLIED DEFENSE MINISTERS. WASHINGTON SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC TRADE-OFFS OF FUNCTIONS. AFTERWARDS, WE CAN LAY THE GROUND WORK WITH OUR ALLIES TO GENERATE MINISTERIAL SUPPORT AT THE DECEMBER MEETING.

6. I WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS.
RUMSFELD

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